



Englisch

Cycling in Germany

The most important rules

Welcome to Germany

Cycling is very popular in Germany. To ensure that you remain as safe as possible when cycling, we outline **the most important rules** to follow here.





CONTENTS

General rules of the road	6
The most important rules for cyclists	7
Paths for cyclists	9
What to do at junctions	12
Particular dangers	14
If you have an accident	16



General rules of the road



STAYING ON THE RIGHT

Cycle close to the edge of the road on the right. Keep a good distance from parked vehicles. Overtake other vehicles by passing to their left, including when you are on dedicated paths for cyclists.



PRIORITY RULE RIGHT BEFORE LEFT

At junctions the priority rule "right before left" applies, unless there are road signs or traffic lights that indicate something else.

At junctions of various kinds that may be difficult to notice, road signs draw your attention to them. Here, too, the "right before left" rule applies.



Junction with priority from the right



Give priority



Stop! Give priority

PRIORITY SIGNS

When you see these road signs, you have to **give priority to other vehicles** and wait.



Priority
at the next
junction



Road with
priority

If you see these road signs,
**other drivers have to give
you priority.**



The most important rules for cyclists

- ▶ A bicycle must have lights, brakes and a bell.
- ▶ There must be only one person on the bicycle.



You can only take
children with you
in a **child seat** or a
special trailer.



Keep both hands on the handlebar.



Cycle in single file (one behind the other,
not side by side)



Wear a cycling helmet whenever possible.



Cyclists must not hold onto other vehicles.



- ▶ You must comply with the rules of the road. Cyclists can also be stopped by the police and receive fines.



Do not make any calls while cycling or look at your smartphone for any reason.

- ▶ Do not cycle if you have drunk alcohol.



Paths for cyclists

A bicycle is a vehicle, and it therefore belongs on the road as a rule. Children must cycle on the pavement **until they are 8 years old**. Children can still use the pavement **until their tenth birthday**.



A **cycle path** is separated from the road by a kerb and from the pavement by markings, paving or a low kerb.

A **mandatory cycle lane** on the road is indicated by an unbroken white line and a blue cycle path sign. Motor vehicles must not use this lane.



An **optional protection lane** on the road is indicated by a broken white line and a pictogram of a bicycle. Motor vehicles must not use it unless they have to avoid oncoming traffic.



There are also **shared paths for pedestrians and cyclists**. Cyclists have to show particular consideration for pedestrians on these.

.....

Cyclists **must** use these:



Cycle paths/
mandatory
cycle lanes



Shared paths
for pedestrians
and cyclists



Cycle paths
next to a
pavement

If a cycle path has a sign with a **white bicycle against a blue background**, you must use it unless there are obstacles in the way. If there are obstacles in your way, you can move carefully onto the road. If it is not possible to switch to the road safely, get off your bicycle and push it around the obstacle.

Cycle paths without signs are **optional**. You can also cycle on the road in this case.

.....

Cyclists **can** cycle here:



Additional
sign for a
route open to
cyclists

Cyclists can only cycle on other surfaces (e.g. on a pavement or in a pedestrian zone) if there is an **additional sign** indicating that it is open to cyclists.

If there is no additional sign indicating a route is open to cyclists, you have to **get off your bicycle and push it**.



Cyclists are **not permitted** here:



Vehicles
only road



Motorway



Pavement



Cycling
prohibited



Vehicles of
all kinds
prohibited



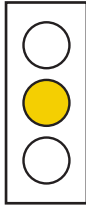
What to do at junctions

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

As a cyclist, you must comply with **traffic lights**.



You can cross when the light is green. But be attentive.



If the light is amber, you may no longer enter the junction. Stop.



Stop! If the light is red, you must always stop.



If there are dedicated **traffic lights for cyclists**, you must comply with these.

Sometimes, such as when the traffic lights are out of order, the **police control** the traffic. The hand signs of police officers always have priority.



You can go now. But be attentive.



Be alert!
Wait before the junction for the next sign.



Stop!



TURNING CAUTIOUSLY

To turn safely, proceed as follows:

- ① **Look over your shoulder:** Look over your shoulder first and monitor the traffic.

- ②



Give a hand signal: Use your arm to indicate the direction in which you want to turn.

- ③ **Take up the correct position:**

- If there are markings for cyclists, follow them.
- Take up position in the correct lane in good time before reaching the junction.

- ④ **Turn:** When turning to the right, watch out for pedestrians crossing the road. They have priority. When you turn to the left, you always have to let the oncoming traffic pass first. If there are special markings for cyclists, follow these.

TURNING INDIRECTLY

If you feel unsafe on the road when turning left, you can turn indirectly instead.

- ① First, cycle across the junction
- ② Keep to the edge of the road on the right. You may have to get off your bicycle.
- ③ Wait until there is no traffic. Then cross the road and continue cycling.



Particular dangers

"BLIND SPOT"

Cyclists are at particular risk when lorries or cars turn right. In the driver's **blind spot**, the driver either can't see you very well or can't see you at all.



Cycle defensively. If you are in any doubt, give up your priority or get off your bicycle and move onto the pavement. However, you will have to push your bicycle there.

What to do:

- ▶ Always stay behind a **lorry or bus** and well clear of it. Never cycle next to it, in front of it or immediately behind it.
- ▶ A lorry or bus needs a lot of space. **Keep a good distance from the vehicle.**
- ▶ Cycle particularly cautiously. If in doubt, give up your priority. Cycling accidents with lorries or buses often result in death.
- ▶ Only cycle past a car to the right of it when there is enough space to do so.
- ▶ Establish **eye contact with the driver.**



OTHER DANGERS

On shared paths for pedestrians and cyclists, **cycle particularly cautiously** and **never cycle so fast that you can't slow down and come to a stop quickly!** Adapt your speed to the speed of the pedestrians.

Drivers may also fail to see you at **T-junctions** and the **entrances to properties**.

Keep a **good distance from parked vehicles** in case somebody opens a door suddenly.



If you have an accident

If you have an accident, call for help. Never leave the scene of an accident without reporting it. This is an offence.



Call the number
for the emergency
services:

112

This phone number
works even if you have
no credit on your mobile
phone.

You will be asked the following questions:

Where did this happen?

What happened exactly?

How many people are affected?

What type of injury/emergency is involved?

Wait for any further questions.

Wait for the ambulance or police,
and provide them with information.

If you yourself are unable to make a phone call, **tell others about the situation** so that they can get help.

IMPRINT

Published by:



Unfallforschung der Versicherer (UDV)

Wilhelmstraße 43/43 G, 10117 Berlin
Postfach 08 02 64, 10002 Berlin
www.udv.de, www.gdv.de



Deutsche Verkehrswacht e.V.

Budapester Straße 31, 10787 Berlin
www.deutsche-verkehrswacht.de



Deutscher Verkehrssicherheitsrat e.V.

German Road Safety Council
Auguststraße 29, 53229 Bonn
www.dvr.de

Content:

Klaus Brandenstein (UDV)
Jörg Ortlepp (UDV)
Kay Schulte (DVR)
Daniel Schüle (DVW)

Conception and design:

pensiero KG, www.pensiero.eu

Image sources:

Cover: [connel_design](#) - [fotolia.com](#);
Page. 3: [cbskchristine](#) - [fotolia.com](#);
P. 7: Avanne Troar; P. 8: Picture-Factory - [fotolia.com](#);
P. 11: Christian Müller - [fotolia.com](#);
P. 12, center: Kara - [fotolia.com](#);
P. 16: Tobias Arhelger - [fotolila.com](#);
the usage rights of the other photographs in this leaflet are owned by the UDV (Unfallforschung der Versicherer) or German Road Safety Council (DVR).

Last updated: October 2016

English-language edition

The leaflet is also available in
other languages free of charge!

Available from:
www.germanroadsafety.de

